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PATENT APPLICATION

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TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

In re the Application of

Kazuhiko OKAWA

Group Art Unit: 2826

Application No.: 09/866,800

Examiner: J. Monahan

Filed: May 30, 2001

Docket No.: 109657

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING ELECTROSTATIC PROTECTION CIRCUIT
AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

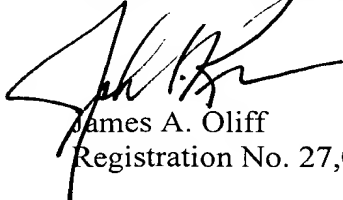
Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 13, 2002, Applicant
provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-7 and 20-23 drawn to a MOS transistor device, with
traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-24 is
sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims
would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is
respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be
made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and
examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must
examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions"
(emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present
application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative
examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSK/kap

Date: February 27, 2002

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